

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stent comprising:

a plurality of first loop containing sections arranged generally in a circumferential direction and spaced apart from one another, loops in said first loop containing sections occurring at a first frequency;

a plurality of second loop containing sections, loops in said second loop containing sections occurring at a second frequency that is higher than said first frequency, said second loop containing sections consecutively alternating with said first loop containing sections along a longitudinal axis of the stent, said sections being alternately joined to longitudinally neighboring sections at every third loop of each said second loop containing sections around the circumference of the stent,

said first loop containing sections and said second loop containing sections form a plurality of cells, wherein each cell is formed from one loop of the first loop containing section and three loops of the second loop containing section, and

said first loop containing sections provide radial support upon expansion of the stent and said second loop containing sections provide longitudinal flexibility of the stent.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The stent according to ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 1, wherein each of said cells encompass about the same area.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The stent according to Claim 1, wherein the relative width of each of said first loop containing sections is such that when said stent is crimped for insertion into a lumen of a blood vessel, each of said second loop containing sections are crimpable to essentially the same diameter as each of said first loop containing sections.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The stent according to Claim 1, wherein said first loop containing sections and said second loop containing sections have struts, said first loop containing sections have wider struts than struts of said second loop containing sections.

10. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 9, wherein ~~one of the struts a~~ strut of the second loop containing sections is shorter than another strut of the second loop containing sections.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A stent comprising:

a plurality of first circumferential bands containing a pattern of loops at a first frequency and disposed in phase relative to one another;

a plurality of second circumferential bands containing a pattern of loops at a second frequency higher than said first frequency, said second circumferential bands consecutively alternating with said first circumferential bands along a longitudinal axis of the stent, every third loop of said second circumferential band alternately joining to neighboring bands of said first circumferential bands, wherein said first circumferential bands and said second circumferential bands form a plurality of cells, wherein each cell is formed from one loop of said first circumferential band and three loops of said second circumferential band, and wherein said first circumferential bands are relatively adapted to provide radial support upon expansion of the stent and said second circumferential bands are relatively adapted to provide longitudinal flexibility of the stent.

14. (Original) The stent according to Claim 13, wherein each of the second circumferential bands have loops which are disposed in phase relative to one another.

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The stent according to ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 13, wherein each of said cells encompass about the same area.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 13, wherein the relative width of said first circumferential bands is such that when said stent is crimped for insertion into a lumen of a blood vessel, said second circumferential bands are crimpable to essentially the same diameter as said first circumferential bands.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The stent according to Claim 13, wherein said first circumferential bands and said second circumferential bands have struts, said first circumferential bands have wider struts than struts of said second circumferential bands.

23. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 13, wherein ~~one of the struts a~~ strut of the second circumferential band is shorter than another strut of the second circumferential band.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A stent comprising:

a plurality of radially supporting generally sinusoidal bands arranged ~~generally~~ in a circumferential direction and spaced apart from one another;

a series of flexible connectors, each having a first end and a second end and a loop there between, said connectors coupling neighboring radially supporting generally sinusoidal bands along the longitudinal axis of the stent such that said first ends and said second ends of each flexible connector are consecutively and alternately joined to each of said neighboring radially supporting sinusoidal bands around the circumference of the stent, ~~wherein the alternate joining of said first and second ends of said flexible~~

~~connectors to said longitudinally neighboring radially supporting sinusoidal bands is circumferentially offset~~ wherein each loop of the generally sinusoidal bands facing an adjacent band is joined to two of said connectors to form a plurality of uniformly distributed cells.

27-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) The stent according to ~~Claim 28~~ Claim 26, wherein each of said cells encompass about the same area.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The stent according to Claim 26, wherein the relative width of said radially supporting sinusoidal bands is such that when said stent is crimped for insertion into a lumen of a blood vessel said flexible connectors are crimpable to essentially the same diameter as said radially supporting sinusoidal bands.

32. (Original) The stent according to Claim 26; wherein said radially supporting sinusoidal bands and said flexible connectors have struts, said radially supporting sinusoidal bands have wider struts than struts of said flexible connectors.

33. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 26, wherein ~~one of the struts a~~ strut of the flexible connector is shorter than another strut of the flexible connector.

34-35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The stent according to Claim 26, wherein said flexible connectors are generally Z-shaped segments.

37. (Currently amended) A stent comprising:

a plurality of first circumferential bands containing a pattern of loops at a first frequency;

a plurality of second circumferential bands containing a pattern of loops at a second frequency higher than said first frequency, consecutively alternating with said

first circumferential bands and periodically coupled to form cells such that said first circumferential bands are joined together through said second circumferential bands without connection directly between said first circumferential bands,

wherein the loops of the first circumferential bands are in phase with each other, each cell formed of one ~~cycle~~ loop of the first circumferential band and three ~~cycles~~ loops of the second circumferential band, the second circumferential band having at least one loop longitudinally shorter than another loop in the second circumferential band.

38. (Original) The stent according to Claim 37, wherein each of the second circumferential bands have loops which are disposed in phase relative to one another.

39-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) The stent according to ~~Claim 40~~ Claim 37, wherein each of said cells encompass about the same area.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Original) The stent according to Claim 37, wherein the relative width of said first circumferential bands is such that when said stent is crimped for insertion into a lumen of a blood vessel, said second circumferential bands are crimpable to essentially the same diameter of said first circumferential bands.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Original) The stent according to Claim 37, wherein said first circumferential bands and said second circumferential bands have struts, said first circumferential bands have wider struts than struts of said second circumferential bands.

46. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 37, wherein ~~one of the struts a~~ strut of the second circumferential band is shorter than another strut of the second circumferential band.

47-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a plurality of cells, each of said plurality of cells ~~including~~ consisting essentially of:

a first member having a first end and a second end;

a second member having a first end and a second end;

~~each of said first end and said second ends end of each of said first member and said second member include a curved portion, said curved portion of said first end of said first member communicating with said curved portion of said first end of said second member forming a first loop;~~

a third member having a first end and a second end;

a fourth member having a first end and a second end;

a fifth member having a first end and a second end;

a sixth member having a first end and a second end;

a seventh member having a first end and a second end;

an eighth member having a first end and a second end; and

said first end and said second end of each of said third member, said fourth member, said fifth member, said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member include a curved portion, said curved portion of said second end of said second member communicating with said curved portion of said first end of said third member, said curved portion of said second end of said third member communicating with said curved portion of said first end of said fourth member forming a second loop, said curved portion of said second end of said fourth member communicating with said curved portion of said first end of said fifth member forming a third loop, said curved portion of said second end of said fifth member communicating with said curved portion of said first end of said sixth member forming a fourth loop, said curved portion of said

second end of said sixth member communicating with said curved portion of said first end of said seventh member forming a fifth loop, said curved portion of said second end of said seventh member communicating with said curved portion of said first end of said eighth member forming a sixth loop, said curved portion of said second end of said eighth member communicating with said curved portion of said second end of said first member.

50. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein said third member, said fourth member, said fifth member, said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member each have a substantially identical length.

51. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein said third member, said fifth member, said sixth member, and said eighth member each have a length that is substantially identical, but longer than a length of said fourth member and said seventh member.

52. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein said third member, said fourth member, said sixth member and said seventh member each have a length that is substantially identical, but shorter than a length of said fifth member and said eighth member.

53. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein said first member, said third member, said seventh member and said eighth member are substantially parallel.

54. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein said second member, said fourth member, said fifth member, and said sixth member are substantially parallel.

55. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein the connection of said third member, said fourth member, and said fifth member form an overall shape that is substantially a mirror image of an overall shape formed by the connection of said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member.

56. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein the connection of said third member, said fourth member, and said fifth member form an overall shape that is

substantially reversed of an overall shape formed by the connection of said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member.

57. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein a substantial length of each of said first member, said second member, said third member, said fourth member, said fifth member, said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member is substantially linear.

58. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein a substantial length of each of ~~said first member, said second member,~~ said third member, said fourth member, said fifth member, said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member is substantially non-linear.

59. (Original) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein each of said first member and said second member have a relative width such that when said stent is crimped for insertion into a lumen of a blood vessel, each of said third member, said fourth member, said fifth member, said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member are crimpable to essentially a same diameter as said first member and said second member.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein each of said first ~~member~~ members and said second ~~member~~ members ~~have a width that~~ is wider than a width of each of said third member, said fourth member, said fifth member, said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member.

62. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 49, wherein at least one of said third member, said fourth member, said fifth member, said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member is of a length that is shorter ~~that~~ than a length of at least one other of said third member, said fourth member, said fifth member, said sixth member, said seventh member, and said eighth member.

63-64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently amended) A stent comprising:

a plurality of first circumferential bands containing a pattern of loops at a first frequency and disposed in-phase relative to one another;

a plurality of second circumferential bands containing a pattern of loops at a second frequency higher than said first frequency, said second circumferential bands consecutively alternating with said first circumferential bands along the longitudinal axis of the stent, wherein all of the loops of the first circumferential bands are connected to adjacent second circumferential bands, and every third loop of the second circumferential bands is connected to adjacent first circumferential bands.

66. (Original) The stent according to Claim 65, wherein each of the second circumferential bands have loops which are disposed in phase relative to one another.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Original) The stent according to Claim 65, wherein said first circumferential bands and said second circumferential bands form a plurality of cells.

69. (Original) The stent according to Claim 68, wherein each of said cells encompass about the same area.

70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 65, wherein the relative width of said first circumferential bands is such that when said stent is crimped for insertion into a lumen of blood vessel, said second circumferential bands are crimpable to essentially the same diameter as said first circumferential bands.

72. (Canceled)

73. (Original) The stent according to Claim 65, wherein said first circumferential bands and said second circumferential bands have struts, said first circumferential bands have wider struts than struts of said second circumferential bands.

74. (Currently amended) The stent according to Claim 65, wherein ~~one of the struts~~ a strut of the second circumferential band is shorter than another strut of the second circumferential band.

75-86 (Canceled)